

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 6531

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, GR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PRESS STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
ROGERS MORTON

FOR: EB/CBA/OCA LAKAS AND BIC/OIM GARNITZ

REF: STATE 069

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REQUEST VIA USIS ATHENS FOR STATEMENT BY COMMERCE SECRETARY MORTON TO BE USED IN "ACROPOLIS" NEWSPAPER WHICH PLANS TO PUBLISH FIFTEEN PAGE SUPPLEMENT ON GREEK-AMERICAN TRADE AND ECONOMIC TIES. OCCASION FOR REPORT, WHICH SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION IN LATE SEPTEMBER, WILL BE U.S. PAVILION IN 40TH THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FIAR (REF)

FYI: "ACROPOLIS" IS LARGEST GREEK MORNING DAILY WITH CIRCULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 100,000. PAPER IS WELL ESTABLISHED WITH CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT ORIENTATION.

2. REQUEST TO SECRETARY MORTON FROM "ACROPOLIS" IS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE. PUBLICATION OF AN ARTICLE FROM YOU REFERRING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND OF THE PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THESE RELATIONS, WOULD PARTICULARLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE ON GREEK-AMERICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION. IF YOU CANNOT DEVOTE TIME TO WRITE A LENGTHY ARTICLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD SEND A SHORT MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION
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OF THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ISSUE. IT IS OUR AMBITION THAT THE

ABOVE MENTIONED ISSUE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING GREEK-AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. UNQUOTE.

3. EMBASSY AND USIS ATHENS BELIEVE THAT BRIEF STATEMENT BY SECRETARY MORTON AND, IF POSSIBLE, ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPH WOULD BE POSITIVE GESTURE, REINFORCING TREND WE HAVE NOTED IN RECENT MONTHS TOWARDS MORE BALANCED COVERAGE OF US IN LOCAL PRESS.

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DRAFT STATEMENT WE WOULD RECOMMEND FOR THIS PURPOSE: "I WELCOME YOUR INITIATIVE IN PREPARING A REPORT ON THE LONG STANDING COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE US PAVILION AT THE 40TH THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR UNDERSCORES ONCE AGAIN THE GREAT IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO OUR ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH GREECE. I AM MOST PLEASED TO NOTE THE INCREASES DURING THE PAST YEAR IN BOTH AMERICAN EXPORTS TO GREECE

AND GREEK EXPORT SALES IN THE U.S. WE REGARD OUR TRADE RELATIONSHIP AS VERY DEFINITELY A TWO-WAY STREET AND ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS EXPANSION WILL CONTINUE TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. I FURTHER BELIEVE THAT GREECE'S SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO THE COMMON MARKET WILL OFFER NEW ECONOMIC INCENTIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED TRADE. TO THIS END, BOTH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ATHENS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE AT THE DISPOSITION OF GREEK BUSINESSMEN INTERESTED IN AMERICAN GOODS AND SERVICES."

5. IF SECRETARY MORTON IS WILLING TO ISSUE STATEMENT, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CLEARANCE FOR DRAFT TEXT ABOVE OR MODIFICATION PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 15 TO PERMIT TIME FOR TRANSLATION INTO GREEK AND PUBLICATION BY "ACROPOLIS" IN LATE SEPTEMBER. KUBISCH

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